

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original):

2 A method for altering a Standard Commands for Programmable
Instrumentation (SCPI) command set for instrument control,
comprising:
4
6 selecting a node to alter, wherein each command of the command set
comprises a different combination of SCPI grammatical elements,
wherein the SCPI grammatical elements are organized hierarchically in
8 a tree data structure, and wherein the tree has nodes with each node
comprising one of the SCPI grammatical elements;
10
12 specifying an alteration to the selected node;
14
16 restricting access to the selected node and to any descendant nodes of
the selected node;
18
20 altering the selected node in accordance with the specified alteration,
wherein the step altering the selected node is performed at runtime; and
removing access restriction to the selected node and to any descendant
nodes of the selected node, wherein at least the restriction, alteration,
and removal steps are performed while the instrument is operational.

Claim 2 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step altering the selected
node comprises:
4
6 when the grammatical element of the selected node is to be removed
from the command set,
8
10 removing the selected node and any descendant nodes of the
selected node from the tree;
12
14 otherwise, when a new node comprising a new grammatical element is
to be added to the command set
16
18 preparing the new node including the new grammatical element
for inclusion in the tree and
20
22 adding the new node to the tree; and

18 otherwise,
20 appropriately changing the grammatical element of the selected
node.

Claim 3 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one node other than
the selected node is accessible for instrument control while at least the
restriction, alteration, and removal steps are performed.

Claim 4 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the selected node is the
tree's root node.

Claim 5 (Original):

2 The method as recited in claim 1, wherein alteration of the command
set is automatically enabled by possession of an electronic license for
change in instrument capability as specified by the license.

Claim 6 (Original):

2 A computer readable memory device embodying a computer program
of instructions executable by the computer for altering a Standard
4 Commands for Programmable Instrumentation (SCPI) command set
for instrument control, the instructions comprising:
6 selecting a node to alter, wherein each command of the command set
comprises a different combination of SCPI grammatical elements,
8 wherein the SCPI grammatical elements are organized hierarchically in
a tree data structure, and wherein the tree has nodes with each node
10 comprising one of the SCPI grammatical elements;
12 specifying an alteration to the selected node;
14 restricting access to the selected node and to any descendant nodes of
the selected node;
16 altering the selected node in accordance with the specified alteration,
18 wherein the step altering the selected node is performed at runtime; and
20 removing access restriction to the selected node and to any descendant
nodes of the selected node, wherein at least the restriction, alteration,
22 and removal steps are performed while the instrument is operational.

Claim 7 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 6, the
instruction altering the selected node comprising:

4 when the grammatical element of the selected node is to be removed
6 from the command set,
8 removing the selected node and any descendant nodes of the
10 selected node from the tree;
12 otherwise, when a new node comprising a new grammatical element is
14 to be added to the command set
16 preparing the new node including the new grammatical element
18 for inclusion in the tree and
20 adding the new node to the tree; and
otherwise,
appropriately changing the grammatical element of the selected
node.

Claim 8 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 7, wherein at
4 least one node other than the selected node is accessible for instrument
control while at least the restriction, alteration, and removal steps are
performed.

Claim 9 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 7, wherein
the selected node is the tree's root node.

Claim 10 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 6, wherein
alteration of the command set is automatically enabled by possession
4 of an electronic license for change in instrument capability as specified
by the license.

Claim 11 (Original):

2 A system for altering a Standard Commands for Programmable
4 Instrumentation (SCPI) command set for instrument control,
comprising:
6 a grammar logic module, wherein each command of the command set
8 comprises a different combination of SCPI grammatical elements,
wherein the SCPI grammatical elements are organized hierarchically in
10 a tree data structure, wherein the tree has nodes with each node
comprising one of the SCPI grammatical elements, wherein when a
node is selected for alteration and an alteration to the selected node is
specified, the grammar logic module has capability of restricting access

12 to the selected node and to any descendant nodes of the selected node,
14 altering the selected node in accordance with the specified alteration,
16 wherein the step altering the selected node is performed at runtime, and
removing access restriction to the selected node and to any descendant
nodes of the selected node, and wherein while access to the selected
node is restricted, the instrument is operational.

Claim 12 (Original):

2 The system as recited in claim 11,
4 wherein when the grammatical element of the selected node is to be
removed from the command set,
6 the grammar logic module has capability of removing the
8 selected node and any descendant nodes of the selected node
from the tree;
10 otherwise, when a new node comprising a new grammatical element is
to be added to the command set
12 the grammar logic module has capability of preparing the new
14 node including the new grammatical element for inclusion in
the tree and
16 adding the new node to the tree; and
18 otherwise,
20 the grammar logic module has capability of appropriately
22 changing the grammatical element of the selected node.

Claim 13 (Original):

2 The system as recited in claim 12, wherein at least one node other than
the selected node is accessible for instrument control while access to
the selected node is restricted

Claim 14 (Original):

2 The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the selected node is the
tree's root node.

Claim 15 (Original):

2 The system as recited in claim 11, wherein alteration of the command
set is automatically enabled by possession of an electronic license for
change in instrument capability as specified by the license.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended):

A system for altering a Standard Commands for Programmable

2 Instrumentation (SCPI) command set for instrument control,
3 comprising:
4
5 means for selecting a node to alter, wherein each command of the
6 command set comprises a different combination of SCPI grammatical
7 elements, wherein the SCPI grammatical elements are organized
8 hierarchically in a tree data structure, and wherein the tree has nodes
9 with each node comprising one of the SCPI grammatical elements;
10
11 means for specifying an alteration to the selected node;
12
13 means for restricting access to the selected node and to any descendant
14 nodes of the selected node, wherein at least one node other than the
15 selected node is accessible for instrument control and wherein the
16 instrument is ~~operable~~; and operable;
17
18 when the grammatical element of the selected node is to be removed
19 from the ~~command set~~; command set:
20
21 means for removing the selected node and any descendant
22 nodes of the selected node from the tree;
23
24 otherwise, when a new node comprising a new grammatical element is
25 to be added to the ~~command set~~; command set:
26
27 means for preparing the new node including the new
28 grammatical element for inclusion in the tree and
29
30 means for adding the new node to ~~the tree~~; and the tree;
31
32 otherwise,
33
34 means for appropriately changing the grammatical element of
35 the selected ~~node~~; node; and
36
37 means for removing access restriction to the selected node and to any
38 descendant nodes of the selected node, wherein at least the restriction,
39 alteration, and removal steps are performed while the instrument is
40 operational.